

MASON'S
Coin and Stamp
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

APRIL, 1867.

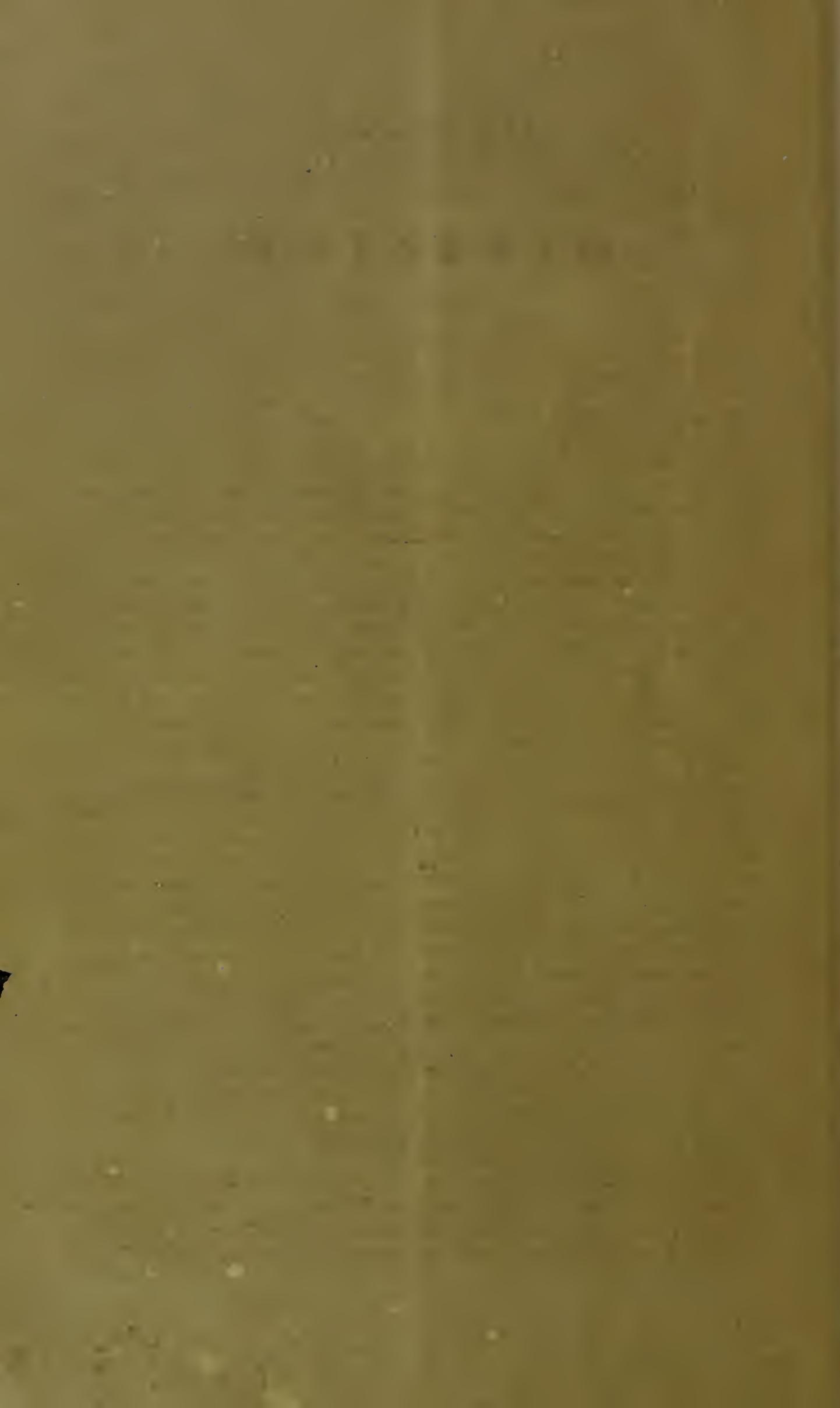
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MASON'S
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VOL. I.

APRIL, 1867.

No. 1.

HISTORY OF THE COINS OF
AMERICA.

In giving the history of American coins, it will be necessary for us to commence with the early coins of the American Colonies.

The first coin in America, of which we have any record, is reported by various authorities to have been the "SUMMER ISLAND SHILLING" struck in brass, in the year 1612. The coin presented on the obverse a Boar, and the inscription "SUMMER ISLAND, value "xii. ;" while the reverse exhibited a sailing vessel, under full canvass, firing a cannon.

This coin, rarely seen in collections, is extremely valuable when found in *fine* condition. (It was confined chiefly to the Bermudas.)

In 1652, the Massachusetts Colonial Assembly coined the celebrated and novel "PINE TREE," and New England money; the latter had precedence in circulation, and was composed of pieces of silver, chipped to the right weight and size, and marked by hand upon one side with the Roman numerals to designate their value, such as *xiid*, *vid*, *iiid*, and upon the reverse the capitals N. E. were stamped.

These coins were termed New England Shillings, Sixpences and Threepences, and, although very rare, are frequently found in good condition among many of the collections of this country.

The "Pine Tree" money bears in appearance a slight resemblance to the ancient Roman silver coins. Pine Tree shillings, sixpences, threepences and two-

penny pieces were coined—all bearing a similarity of appearance. Upon the obverse a pine tree, enclosed by dotted double circles, within which are the letters *MASATIIVSETS IN*; on the reverse, across the centre, 1652, and beneath the value expressed by *xii.*, surrounding the date and figures, within a double dotted ring are the words *NEW ENGLAND, AN DOM.*

The New England and Pine Tree Coinage were in use from 1652 until 1685'6. These coins were issued from the same dies annually, so that collectors are unable to distinguish between the coins of 1686 and 1652. All genuine coins of these issues are valuable to collectors; their value being determined by their condition

The Lord Baltimore Silver coins were circulated in Maryland in 1651. They consist of shilling, sixpence, fourpence and groat. The obverse of each coin presents Lord Baltimore's bust, with the legend "*Cæcilius DNS! TERRÆ: MARIAE* and *et c.*" (Cecilius, Lord of Maryland.) The centre of reverse contains the *coat of arms* of Lord Baltimore; the *value* upon each side of the crest, and surrounding the whole is the Scriptural injunction *CRESCITE ET MULTIPLICAMIN* (increase and multiply).

Coins of the above description are excessively scarce and command extraordinary prices.

ROSA AMERICANAS (BRASS COINS)—In 1722 and '23 these peculiar coins made their appearance, issued in England for circulation among the colonies of Ameri-

ca. These coins are in size compared to our modern United States silver half dollar and the copper cent of issue prior to 1858. The large Rosa Americanas of 1722 have a bust of George III. surrounded with the inscription *GEORGIIUS, DG. MAG. BRIT. FRA. ET HIB. REX*; the reverse a rose with the words *ROSA AMERICANA*, beneath the rose the legend "*UTILE DULCE.*" The large and small Rosa Americanas of 1723 have the rose surmounted by a crown. These very pretty coins are generally found in good condition, and are highly valued by Numismatists and collectors of relics.

(*To be Continued*)

[*NOTE.*—In the May number we shall give a history and description of the coinage of the Colonies, including the coins of Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, Kentucky, Georgia and the Carolinas.]

NUMISMATOLOGY.

The history and study of coins is one of the most interesting and useful employments that the youth of our country can devote their leisure moments to. Not only will the youthful mind inculcate a desire for information upon other subjects, by observing the rise, progress and fall of nations, through a proper study of a nation's emblems, but gain a knowledge (in an agreeable and easy manner) of the world's wonderful history.

As an entertaining amusement, collecting coins affords one of the most pleasing pastimes extant, and many persons can be pointed out, in our large cities, who have accumulated wealth, wisdom and knowledge, which the dry study of books would not have afforded in double the time devoted to this delightful employment.

Many persons who cannot acquire knowledge by the use of books, without a life time of laborious study, will find

that the collecting and study of coins will make them as familiar with history, in a remarkably short period, as though they had lived through the reigns of monarchs, potentates and presidents for a thousand years.

As a means of keeping our youth from spending their idle hours in the haunts of vice and dissipation, this study is certainly deserving of more attention from parents and guardians than it generally receives.

Foreign nations are far in advance of this country in Numismatics, and many works of rare ability have been published in Europe devoted to the dissemination of knowledge upon this most interesting subject.

AMERICAN COINS.

We have commenced, upon the first page, the publication of the history of the coins circulated in America from the year 1612 down to the present time.

It is our purpose to present a brief but succinct description of every coin; gold, silver, brass or copper, known to have been used or circulated in America.

In giving to our readers this completion of facts connected with the history of our coins it will be found necessary to refer to many old American publications to identify and secure for this record a correct account of *unique* coins, said to be in private collections in this country and Europe. We will be under many obligations for the use of any old pamphlets or newspapers containing articles in reference to American coins.—Also, for a description and impression of any of the *unique* coins of America.

COIN PRICED CATALOGUE.

We have a little catalogue of the prices paid for American cents, half cents, silver, &c., which we send by mail to parties at a distance for 25 cents, published and corrected semi-annually.

MEDALS OF AMERICA.

We shall commence the publication of a history of American medals as soon as the history of "Coins of America" is completed; and a history of the coins and medals of other nations; making the Coin Collectors' Magazine a valuable adjunct to the coin literature of the country or to those interested in Numismatology.

COME AND SEE US.

Coin Collectors from abroad are cordially invited to call at our office, when visiting the city, and examine the coins, medals and curiosities we have on exhibition, among which will be found some that are exceedingly rare.

CURIOS COINS.

Persons having in their possession curious coins, medals, &c., can learn their history and value by mailing an impression in wax with description and size to our office. All letters promptly answered.

PUBLIC SALES OF COINS,
MEDALS, &c.

In a future number will appear an account of the different sales of coins, medals, &c., which have taken place in the United States, showing the varieties and prices paid by collectors and others at different periods, with a table of the increasing value of these interesting relics of our country.

By the way, can any of our friends or readers inform us of the correct date, &c., when the first public sale of coins (as a collection) took place. Mr. A. C. Kline, of Philadelphia, is believed to be the first collector who sold, by public auction, a good assortment of the coins of America.

PREMIUM FOR OLD COPPERS.

Every person having the old copper United States cent and half cent of dates 1793 to 1837 inclusive, should preserve them, as they are increasing in value yearly, and ere long the great surplus of coppers which formerly glutted the market will be used up by the United States Mint in the cheaper and more convenient copper two cent piece now extensively circulated.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ANTIQUARIAN.—"Hearing that you were publishing a periodical and price catalogues of coins, I would ask if you buy all the coins you name, and at the prices named?"—Answer: *Certainly, we buy any thing and every thing in the coin and curiosity line, and pay prices according to condition in which we find them.*

SEND IN YOUR CARDS.

A complete list of the dealers in coins and relics in the United States and Europe is desired for our next number. We intend to publish the names (with address) of all dealers, *free of charge*, but "SPECIAL CARDS" will be admitted upon liberal terms.

1793, 1799, 1804, 1809 AND 1823.

United States cents of the above dates can be had at this office at prices varying from 25 cents to \$25 each.

FULL SETS OF U. S. CENTS.

Complete sets of United States copper cents, half cents and nickels can be had. Prices, \$5 to \$500 per set.

WANTED!

Coins, Medals, Books, Autographs, Army Buttons, Relics, Curiosities, &c. Parties wishing to buy, sell or exchange any of the above, will oblige us by sending their address to this office.

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS.

In collecting coins, &c., the amateur should use the greatest caution to prevent the accumulation of a quantity of trash manufactured to imitate the genuine coins of rarity and value. Copper and lead electrotypes in exact imitation of the genuine abound in great numbers where coins are in demand, and are worthless to those who value and desire to collect and retain a good set of genuine coins.

COMMON TERMS OF COINS.

All coins, medals, &c., are divided into three distinct classes, viz: "CIRCULATED," "UNCIRCULATED" and "PROOF." The circulated coins are those that have been worn by abrasion or circulation, and become rubbed, scratched or injured in any way, thereby depreciating their fictitious value.

Uncirculated Coins are those that have been preserved, soon after being issued, and present a bright or perfect appearance without injury from rust, &c.

Proof Coins are those struck from polished dies, before the regular coinage is made, and before the die becomes worn. All *proof coins, medals, &c.*, have a mirror-like surface, and are valued in proportion to the beauty and brightness of the coin.

There are other terms used by collectors to designate varieties, condition, &c., but these three classes determine the generally accepted condition of coins.

TO COIN COLLECTORS.

Specimen numbers of the magazine sent to any address on receipt of 15 cts. All yearly subscribers enclosing \$1 will receive with the first No. a gift of a silver-plated United States Mint medal.

These medals are not in circulation and can be had only of the publishers. Price 50 cents each.

COMMUNICATIONS SOLICITED.

Our columns will be open to any well written articles upon coins, relics, autographs, &c., or upon any subject that interests the general reader.

A DELICATE HINT.

Will our friends at a distance please call the attention of coin dealers and collectors to our little monthly. Should we meet our expectations we will enlarge.

ACTIVITY IN THE COIN MARKET.

Coin collecting has received a fresh impetus in the recent sales which have taken place by public auction in this city.

On Monday, March 18, Messrs. Birch & Son sold by catalogue a collection of American and Foreign coins and medals consisting of 388 lots or pieces. Good prices were obtained for the entire collection.

On Tuesday, March 19, B. Scott, Jr., sold a very fine collection of 350 pieces, coins and medals. Prices obtained for the latter not so good as that of the former, although the coins and medals offered were in much better condition.

REMEMBER!

All the initial annual subscribers to this monthly receive, with the April No., a silver plated United States Mint medal as a gift.

WANTED!

Postage stamps in any quantity, used or unused, at a fair price.

GOLD.

A beautiful set of United States gold pieces for the year 1866, including the 20, 10, 5, 3, 2½ and 1 dollar piece (proof) can be had at this office at a very reasonable price. Also, a full set of United States Mint medals (Presidential).

SALE OF AUTOGRAPHS.

The sale by Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., of the immense collection of autographs belonging to the late J. K. Tefit, of Savannah, Ga., closed yesterday afternoon. Few persons uninitiated in the mysteries of autography, are aware of the interest excited among the fraternity of collectors by an extensive sale of this kind. As a matter of curious interest we append the prices paid for the autographs of some of the celebrities:—

A complete set of the Signers of the Constitution of the U. S. ... \$210 00

A complete set of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence 625 00

Gen. Robert Howe, 2 signatures. 58 00

Gen. Sam Parsons, one of the Board who tried Major Andre 9 00

Wm. Penn, Hannah Penn and Lady Juliana Penn 15 00

Rev. Samuel Phelps, 1st Minister of Rowley 4 75

Gen. Andrew Pickens 5 50

Edgar A. Poe, a fine letter 11 00

Gen. Enoch Poor 6 00

Wm. H. Prescott, a piece of historical MSS. 9 00

Count Pulaski 22 00

Red Jacket, Indian chief 6 00

James Rivington, Tory Printer of Royal Gazette, 2 signatures 28 00

Count de Rochambeau 7 50

Dr. Benjamin Rush 5 00

John G. Saxe, MSS. "Sonnet to a Clam" 11 00

Baron Steuben, 2 signatures 6 50

Col. Tarleton, terms of capitulation offered by Tarleton to Col. Buford, May 29, 1780 19 00

Capt. Walker, the Texan Ranger 15 00

George Washington, A. L. S., a little stained 25 00

Charles Lee 20 00

Ludwig Von Beethoven 13 00

General Braddock 23 00

Sir Egerton Brydges 5 25

General Burgoyne, 2 signatures. 28 00

Robert Burns, 5 signatures.....	70	00
Lord Byron, 2 signatures	75	00
Samuel Taylor Coleridge.....	11	00
Marquis Cornwallis	17	00
Count de Estaing.....	24	00
Napoleon Bonaparte, A. L. S. and 23 signatures of attachés...	48	00
Marshal Ney.....	7	00
Robespierre.....	9	00
Mirabeau	7	75
General Thomas Gage.....	28	00
Minister Genet...	22	00

—New York *Herald*.

FOR SALE.

A collection of over 2000 foreign and American post office stamps uncancelled. Price, \$300. Call at our office.

POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTORS' DEPARTMENT, April, 1867.

A description of the postage stamps of the world, to which is added the value of used and unused stamps, showing the prices paid for the stamps of all nations.

United States Post Office Stamps.

Unused. Used.

1847. \$ cts. \$ cts.

5 cents, rect, brown.....	40	5	✓
10 " black.....	75	20	✓

NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

5 cents, large, rect, black....	75	40	
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1857.

1 cent, rect, blue.....	2	1	✓
3 " carmine.....	3	1	✓
5 " brown.....	8	5	✓

10 " green	10	3	✓
12 " black.....	12	4	✓
24 " lilac	30	6	✓

30 " orange.....	35	8	✓
90 " blue	1 00	35	✓

Full set, 8 stamps	1 75		
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1864.

1 cent, rect, blue.....	2	1	✓
2 " black.....	2	1	✓
3 " carmine	3	1	✓

5 " brown.....	5	2	✓
10 " green	10	1	✓
12 " black	12	2	✓

	Unused.	Used.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
24 cent, rect, lilac	24	3
30 " orange.....	30	4
90 " bluc.	90	25

ESSAYS.

Various colors, same designs	
as 1857	40
Various colors, same designs	
as 1861.....	25

ENVELOPES.

1857.

3 cents, large oval, red.....	6	1
6 " " red.....	25	10
6 " " green....	25	10
10 " " green....	15	2
3 " small oval, vermil...	6	1
4 " " blue & " ...	25	
6 " " vermil...	50	
10 " " green....	15	6

1861.

1 cent, oval, blue.....	3	1
2 " black.....	4	1
3 " rose	4	1
6 "	8	3
10 " green	12	2
12 " brown and red.	18	
20 " blue and red....	35	
24 " green and red...	40	
40 " red and black....	50	

Confederate States Post Office Stamps.

	Used.	Unused.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
1 cent, yellow.....	25	1 00
2 cents, red	4	10
5 " blue	5	10
5 " green.....	5	10
10 " green.....	2	10
10 " blue.....	2	5
17 " green.....	10	25
20 " green.....	10	20

(To be Continued.)

[NOTE.—This department will include the stamps of all nations, with retail value added until complete. Also, the essays, local and private stamps included.]

ILLUSTRATIONS.

We propose presenting from time to time a number of engravings, representing rare, unique and interesting coins, medals and stamps. Also, as we advance in age to increase the quantity and quality of reading matter.

CLUBS.

To the person sending us 10 subscribers, we will mail a copy of the magazine free for one year.

To the person sending us 5 subscribers we will send the magazine free for six months.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS,

To M. C.—*Mr. Edward Cogan, the amiable and gentlemanly Coin Dealer, formerly of 48 North Tenth St., has removed to William St., New York.*

TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

A larger space will be devoted to stamps in our next number, and many articles inserted of absorbing interest connected with this important subject.

STAMP COLLECTORS

Can be furnished with any rare stamp required by addressing a note to this office

COMPLETE SETS

Of American stamps, old and new issue, for sale.

TERMS :

\$1.00 per Annum in advance.

75 for 6 Months "

50 for 3 " "

No advertisements inserted unless pertaining to coins, medals, stamps, relics, etc., for which 5 cents per line will be charged for each insertion.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Boston, March 3d, 1862.

MASON & Co., Gents. :—

"Understanding that you are about publishing a coin magazine, I would like to know if it relates to foreign as well as to American coins. I am a collector of coins of all nations, and among those I purchased abroad I found three of the Republic of Berne; one 5 francs dated 1798, with the figure of a man holding a sword on the obverse, and on the reverse a bear. On the other, a 1 franc, the same designs, dated 1811; and one with the bear on the reverse, on the obverse a man planting flowers.

"I never saw the duplicates of those I have, and can get no specific history of the Republic of Berne. Please give me, as far as you know, the history of how long the Republic of Berne existed, and when it entered in the confederation of the Republic of Switzerland, and

Oblige yours, respectfully,

C. M. WILKINS,

81 Washington St., Boston, Mass."

[The above letter, from Boston, came to hand just as we were going to press, and regret that we cannot reply fully in this number to the enquiry of our correspondent. If any of our readers have duplicates of the Berne silver coin of 1798 and 1811, we should be pleased to hear from them in time for the May No.

If C. M. W. will continue his correspondence, and describe such foreign coins as possess interest and value, we shall take great pleasure in publishing the same.—ED.]

100,000 STAMPS WANTED.

Never destroy the stamps on your letters. All stamps, used or unused, are worth something.

We send all the stamps in common use, such as the 1, 2 and 3 cent stamps cancelled, to England, and receive the common stamps of that country in re-

turn; thus making the defaced stamps, so common in this country, of value to stamp collectors abroad.

FINE COLLECTION OF STAMPS.

Prof. Wyman, the celebrated Ventriloquist, formerly of this city, now of Burlington, N. J., has the reputation of possessing the best and largest collection of uncancelled stamps (foreign and American) in this country.

We had the pleasure of seeing this collection, numbering between two and three thousand, and pronounce it a superb and valuable one; and if it can be equalled or excelled by any one we should feel proud to publish the lucky competitor's address.

Prof. Wyman is, as far as we know, the stamp champion of America.

EUROPEAN DEALERS.

Should this Magazine reach our coin and stamp cousins across the big pond, we should be gratified to hear from them and establish a little trade in the way of exchange.

U. S. STAMPS, FIRST ISSUE.

Sets of the first issue of American stamps, uncancelled, from the one cent stamp to the 90, (8 stamps) for sale at \$1.50 per set.

APOLOGETICAL.

An apology is due to our numerous friends, who have aided us with their subscriptions, for the lack of matter in this, the initial number of our little monthly. Our motto is *multum in parvo*, and we hope, in time, to make this periodical more valuable for the *quality* of its contents than the quantity.

MASON & CO.,

NO. 434 Chestnut Street.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.,

COIN & STAMP DEALERS.

HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR

Coins, Medals, Autographs, Books, Relics, Letters,
and Curiosities in General.

MASON'S

COIN PRICED CATALOGUE,

SHOWING PRICES PAID FOR

AMERICAN COPPER AND SILVER COINS, &c.

PRICE 25 CENTS.

CORRECTED AND ISSUED SEMI-ANNUALLY.

Coins Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

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